

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, 15-22 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 5, 6, 21, and 22 have been cancelled, claims 1 and 12 have been amended, and no claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, and 15-20 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12, 16, and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunfield et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,774,974.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12, and cancelled claims 5, 6, 21, and 22 as indicated above. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 12 may be found, for example, in Figs. 2, 4, and paragraphs [0010] and [0019] of the present application. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dunfield fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus for supporting a stator including a support base member having integrally formed therein a first annular support member and a second annular support member, wherein the first and second support members are "fixedly attached" to the stator, "thereby reducing displacement of the stator relative to the base member in response to vibrations," as recited by amended claim 1. Claim 12 has been similarly amended to recite that the support members are integrally formed with the base and are fixedly attached to the stator, thereby reducing displacement of the stator relative to the base member in response to vibrations. As described in the present application, e.g., in paragraph [0010], supporting two portions of the stator (e.g., at an inner portion and outer portion) substantially

reduces vibrations in the stator, thereby reducing acoustic noise generated by the motor. These features of claims 1 and 12 are clearly not disclosed or suggested by Dunfield.

The Examiner states on page 3 of the Office Action that Dunfield discloses: "The first and second members are bonded to the stator by an adhesive (78) (see fig. 6)." The Examiner has identified drive shaft 56 and wire guide 40 of Dunfield as disclosing first and second support members as recited in the claims. Drive shaft 56 and wire guide 40, however, are not fixedly attached to a first and second portion of the stator to "reduc[e] displacement of the stator relative to the base member in response to vibrations," as recited by amended claims 1 and 12. Dunfield fails to disclose or suggest that wire guide 40 is fixedly attached to the stator or that the wire guide 40 reduces displacement of the stator relative to the base member. In embodiments where wire guide 40 is not removed following soldering, wire guide 40 remains merely to retain adhesive when stator 50 is potted. (see, e.g., col. 3, line 59- col. 4, line 24, and in particular, col. 4, lines 20-24). There is no indication or suggestion that wire guide 40 reduces displacement of the stator. Therefore, Dunfield does not disclose or suggest that wire guide 40 reduces displacement of the stator relative to the base member, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, the Examiner states on page 2 in response to Applicants' previous amendment: "Regarding the wire guide 40 of Dunfield doesn't abut or support a portion of the stator, Dunfield discloses the inner circumference 44 of retaining ring 40 is designed to fit over stator slots 66 (column 3, lines 25-29) for example as shown in fig. 4 and fig. 5 where the wire guide 40 abut the outer part of the stator." This portion cited by the Examiner, however, falls short of disclosing or suggesting that wire guide 40 abuts, let alone is "fixedly attached," to stator 50. As stated above, this portion of Dunfield (col. 4, lines 20-24) merely discloses that ring 40 may be "attached to, or formed from, motor base 52 and used to retain the flow of adhesive 78 beyond the outer rim of stator assembly 50." This section clearly does not disclose that wire guide support 40 is "fixedly attached" to the stator (or reduces displacement of the stator) as recited by amended claims 1 and 12.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Dunfield does not disclose or suggest all features of claims 1 and 12 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunfield et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,974) in view of Dunfield et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,694,268; hereinafter “Dunfield ‘268”).

Claims 2, 4, 15, and 17 depend from claims 1 and 12 respectively and should be allowable over Dunfield for at least similar reasons as claims 1 and 12. The addition of Dunfield ‘268 fails to cure the deficiencies of Dunfield identified above. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

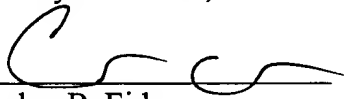
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712007100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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